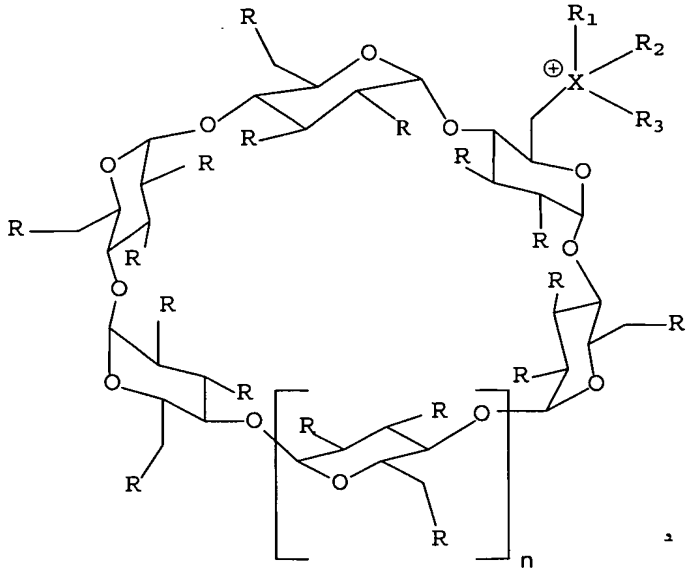
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 3- 12, 16, 21, 24 and 25 as indicated below. Claim 2 is cancelled and claims 4, 6-9, 12, 21-23, 25, 32, 34 and 36 are withdrawn. This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A cationic oligomer of a saccharide of ~~the general~~ formula (I):



(I)

wherein:

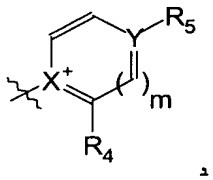
n = 0 to 8;

X is nitrogen or phosphorus;

R is a hydroxyl, an ester, a carbamate, a carbonate, a phosphinate, a phosphonate, a phosphate, a sulfinate, a sulfite, a sulfonate, a sulphate, or R'O-, wherein R' is linear or branched (C_1-C_{20})alkyl, hydroxy(C_1-C_{20})alkyl, carboxy(C_1-C_{20})alkyl, aryl, or aryl(C_1-C_{20})alkyl; and

R_1, R_2 and R_3 ~~are~~ each independently is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, linear or branched (C_1-C_{20})alkyl, linear or branched (C_1-C_{20})alkenyl, linear or branched (C_1-C_{20})alkynyl, and cycloalkyl; or

R_1 is absent, and R_2 and R_3 are taken together with X to form a ring having the following structure:



wherein:

m = 0 or 1;

Y is carbon or nitrogen;

R_4 is hydrogen, linear or branched (C_1-C_{20})alkyl, linear or branched (C_1-C_{20})alkenyl, linear or branched (C_1-C_{20})alkynyl, or cycloalkyl; and

R_5 is ~~hydrogen,~~ 2-(2-ethoxyethoxy)ethyl, linear or branched (C_1-C_{20})alkyl, linear or branched (C_1-C_{20})alkenyl, linear or branched (C_1-C_{20})alkynyl, cycloalkyl, or NR_6R_7, wherein R_6 and R_7 ~~are~~ each independently is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, linear or branched (C_1-C_{20})alkyl, linear or branched (C_1-C_{20})alkenyl, linear or branched (C_1-C_{20})alkynyl, and cycloalkyl.

2. (Cancelled).

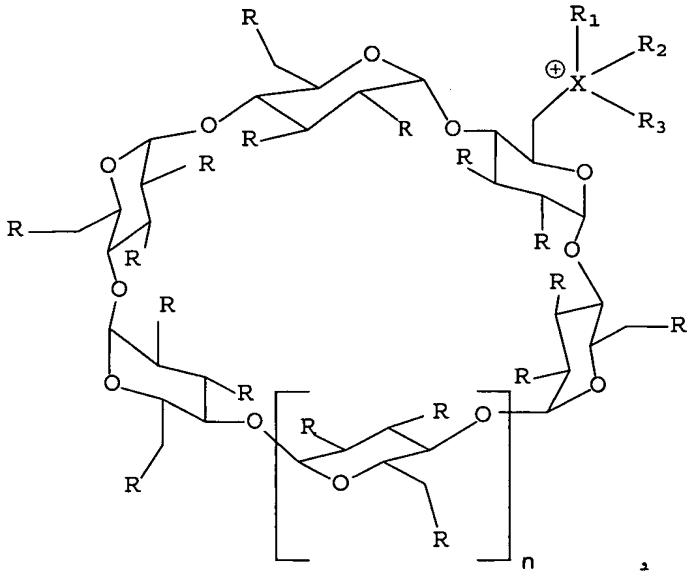
3. (Currently Amended) The cationic oligomer of a saccharide ~~according to~~ of claim ~~2~~ 1, wherein X is nitrogen.

4. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The cationic oligomer of a saccharide ~~according to~~ of claim ~~2~~ 1, wherein X is phosphorus.

5. (Currently Amended) The cationic oligomer of a saccharide ~~according to~~ of claim 1, wherein R_1 is absent, R_2 and R_3 form a ring, X is nitrogen, Y is nitrogen, and m is 0.

6. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The cationic oligomer of a saccharide ~~according to~~ of claim 1, wherein R_1 is absent, R_2 and R_3 form a ring, X is nitrogen, Y is carbon, and m is 1.

7. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) A cationic oligomer of a saccharide of ~~the general~~ formula (I):



(I)

wherein:

n = 0 to 8;

X is nitrogen or phosphorus;

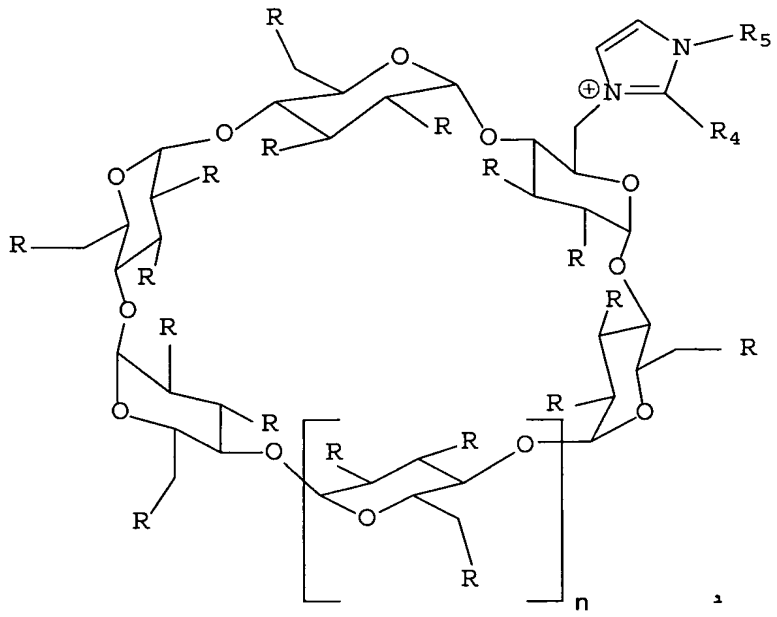
R is a hydroxyl, an ester, a carbamate, a carbonate, a phosphinate, a phosphonate, a phosphate, a sulfinate, a sulfite, a sulfonate, a sulphate, or R'O-, wherein R' is linear or branched (C_1-C_{20})alkyl, hydroxy(C_1-C_{20})alkyl, carboxy(C_1-C_{20})alkyl, aryl, or aryl(C_1-C_{20})alkyl; and

R_1, R_2 and R_3 ~~are~~ each independently is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, linear or branched (C_1-C_{20})alkyl, linear or branched (C_1-C_{20})alkenyl, linear or branched (C_1-C_{20})alkynyl, and cycloalkyl.

8. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The cationic oligomer of a saccharide ~~according to~~ of claim 7, wherein X is nitrogen.

9. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The cationic oligomer of a saccharide ~~according to~~ of claim 7, wherein X is phosphorus.

10. (Currently amended) A cationic oligomer of a saccharide of ~~the general~~ formula (II):



(II)

wherein:

n = 0 to 8;

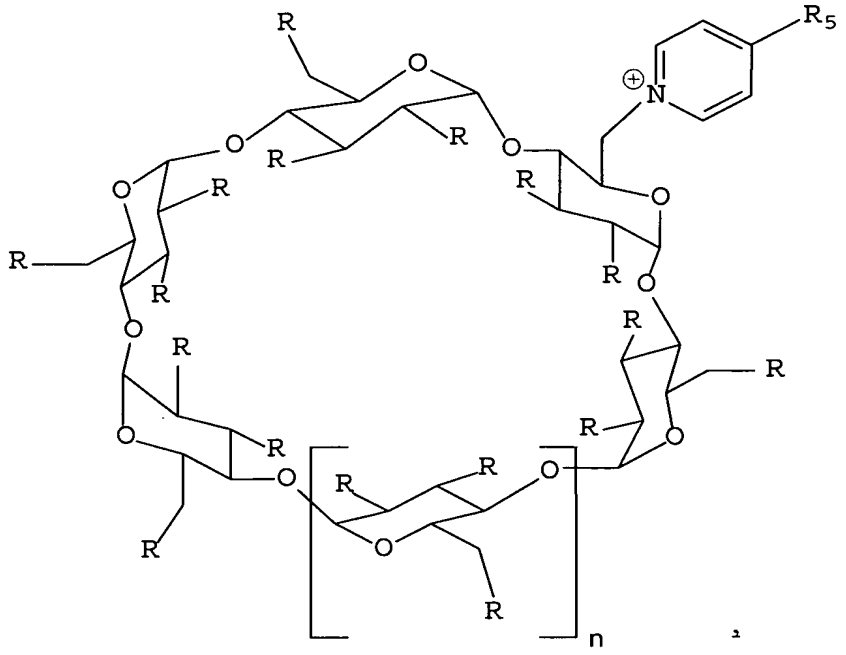
R is a hydroxyl, an ester, a carbamate, a carbonate, a phosphinate, a phosphonate, a phosphate, a sulfinate, a sulfite, a sulfonate, a sulphate, or R'O-, wherein R' is linear or branched chain (C_1-C_{20})alkyl, hydroxy(C_1-C_{20})alkyl, carboxy(C_1-C_{20})alkyl, aryl, or aryl(C_1-C_{20})alkyl;

R_4 is hydrogen, linear or branched (C_1-C_{20})alkyl, linear or branched (C_1-C_{20})alkenyl, linear or branched (C_1-C_{20})alkynyl, or cycloalkyl; and

R_5 is ~~hydrogen,~~ 2-(2-ethoxyethoxy)ethyl, linear or branched (C_1-C_{20})alkyl, linear or branched (C_1-C_{20})alkenyl, linear or branched (C_1-C_{20})alkynyl, or cycloalkyl.

11. (Currently Amended) The cationic oligomer of a saccharide ~~according to~~ of claim 10, wherein R_4 is hydrogen or methyl.

12. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) A cationic oligomer of a saccharide of ~~the general~~ formula (III):



(III)

wherein:

n = 0 to 8;

R is a hydroxyl, an ester, a carbamate, a carbonate, a phosphinate, a phosphonate, a phosphate, a sulfinate, a sulfite, a sulfonate, a sulphate, or R'O-, wherein R' is linear or branched (C_1-C_{20})alkyl, hydroxy(C_1-C_{20})alkyl, carboxy(C_1-C_{20})alkyl, aryl, or aryl(C_1-C_{20})alkyl; and

R_5 is hydrogen, linear or branched (C_1-C_{20})alkyl, linear or branched (C_1-C_{20})alkenyl, linear or branched (C_1-C_{20})alkynyl, cycloalkyl, or NR_6R_7, wherein R_6 and R_7 ~~are~~ each independently is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, linear or branched (C_1-C_{20})alkyl, linear or branched (C_1-C_{20})alkenyl, linear or branched (C_1-C_{20})alkynyl, and cycloalkyl.

13. (Previously presented) The cationic oligomer of a saccharide of claim 1, wherein n is 1, 2, or 3.

14. (Previously presented) The cationic oligomer of a saccharide of claim 1, further comprising a counterion.

15. (Previously presented) The cationic oligomer of a saccharide of claim 14, wherein the counterion is fluoride, chloride, bromide, iodide, nitrate, HCO_3^-, CO_3^{2-}, HSO_4^-, BF_4^-, BCl_4^-, PF_6^-, SbF_6^-, AsF_6^-, $AlCl_4^-$, R_9-CO_2^- or R_9-SO_3^-, wherein R_9 is linear or branched

(C_1-C_{20})alkyl, linear or branched (C_1-C_{20})alkenyl, linear or branched (C_1-C_{20})alkynyl, cycloalkyl, or aryl(C_1-C_{20})alkyl.

16. (Previously presented) A method of preparing a cationic oligomer of a saccharide ~~as defined in~~ of claim 1, comprising reacting an amine, a phosphine, an imidazole, or a pyridine with an oligomer of a saccharide having a leaving group.

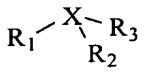
17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the leaving group is a halide, a mesylate, a tosylate, a triflate, or a haloformate ester group.

18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the halide is an iodide, bromide, or chloride.

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the leaving group is a tosylate.

20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the oligomer of a saccharide is mono-6-deoxy-6-tosyl cyclodextrin or mono-2-deoxy-2-tosyl cyclodextrin.

21. (Withdrawn and Currently amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the amine and phosphine are

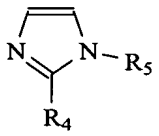


wherein X, R_1, R_2, and R_3 are defined as in claim 1.

22. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 21, wherein X is nitrogen.

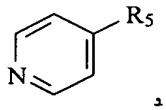
23. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 21, wherein X is phosphorous.

24. (Currently amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the imidazole is



wherein R_4 and R_5 are defined as in claim 1.

25. (Withdrawn and Currently amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the pyridine is



wherein R_5 is defined as in claim 1.

26. (Previously presented) A method for enantiomeric separation of a mixture of racemates, comprising:

providing a cationic oligomer of a saccharide as defined in claim 1 as a chiral agent;

mixing the cationic oligomer of the saccharide with the mixture of racemates; and

enantioseparating the racemates by a chromatographic method.

27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the chromatographic method is selected from the group consisting of gas chromatography (GC), liquid chromatography (LC), high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC), capillary electrophoresis (CE), and sub or supercritical fluid chromatography (SFC).

28. (Previously presented) A method for asymmetric synthesis of a compound, comprising:

providing a cationic oligomer of a saccharide as defined in claim 1 as a chiral agent; and

performing the asymmetric synthesis reaction in the presence of the chiral agent.

29. (Previously presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the asymmetric synthesis is a reduction or a pericyclic reaction.

30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 29, wherein the pericyclic reaction is an ene or a Diels Alder reaction.

31. (Previously presented) The cationic oligomer of a saccharide of claim 10, wherein n is 1, 2 or 3.

32. (Withdrawn) The cationic oligomer of a saccharide of claim 12, wherein n is 1, 2 or 3.

33. (Previously presented) The cationic oligomer of a saccharide of claim 10, further comprising a counterion.

34. (Withdrawn) The cationic oligomer of a saccharide of claim 12, further comprising a counterion.

35. (Previously presented) A method of preparing a cationic oligomer of a saccharide as defined in claim 10, comprising reacting an amine, a phosphine, an imidazole, or a pyridine with an oligomer of the saccharide having a leaving group.

36. (Previously presented) A method of preparing a cationic oligomer of a saccharide as defined in claim 12, comprising reacting an amine, a phosphine, an imidazole, or a pyridine with an oligomer of the saccharide having a leaving group.

37. (Previously presented) A method for enantiomeric separation of a mixture of racemates, comprising:

providing a cationic oligomer of a saccharide as defined in claim 10 as a chiral agent;

mixing the cationic oligomer of the saccharide with the mixture of racemates; and

enantioseparating the racemates by a chromatographic method.

38. (Previously presented) A method for enantiomeric separation of a mixture of racemates, comprising:

providing a cationic oligomer of a saccharide as defined in claim 12 as a chiral agent;

mixing the cationic oligomer of the saccharide with the mixture of racemates; and

enantioseparating the racemates by a chromatographic method.

39. (Previously presented) A method for asymmetric synthesis of a compound, comprising:

providing a cationic oligomer of a saccharide as defined in claim 10 as a chiral agent; and

performing the asymmetric synthesis reaction in the presence of the chiral agent.

40. (Previously presented) A method for asymmetric synthesis of a compound, comprising:

providing a cationic oligomer of a saccharide as defined in claim 12 as a chiral agent; and

performing the asymmetric synthesis reaction in the presence of the chiral agent.